

**Kelly Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board Meeting**  
**April 7, 1998 6:00 p.m.**  
**Dwight Middle School**

**Members/Alternates present:**

Brig. Gen. Leroy Barnidge, Jr.,  
RAB Installation Co-Chair  
Mr. Edward Weinstein  
Dr. Gene Lené  
Mr. Allan Posnick (Mr. Beyer's alt)  
Ms. Camille Hueni  
Mr. George Rice  
Mr. Juan Solis, Sr.  
Mrs. Dominga Adames  
Ms. Annalisa Peace

Mr. Damian Sandoval  
RAB Community Co-Chair  
Mr. David Johnson (Mrs. Johnson's alt)  
Mr. Larry Hoffmann  
Mr. Willie Jones, Jr.  
Mr. Armando Quintanilla  
Mr. Sam Sanchez  
Mr. Mark Puffer  
Mr. Sam Murrah

**Members Absent Without Alternate:**

Mr. Paul Roberson  
Mr. Allan Hagelthorn  
Mr. Carl Mixon

Mr. Nicolas Rodriguez, Jr.  
Mr. Paul Person  
Mr. John A. Jacobi

**Item I: Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m., by Brig. Gen. Leroy Barnidge, Jr., RAB Installation Co-Chair.

**Item III: Administrative Topics**

- A. In response to an Administrative Subcommittee request for more information on the RAB, Ms. Mary Kelly, Kelly AFB Legal Office, gave a brief description of information placed in the RAB members' packets at the request of the Administrative Subcommittee. The information included a member list, a copy of the current charter and of the proposed revised charter, official RAB guidance from DOD and a copy of the RAB law.
- B. RAB members present introduced themselves.
- C. Mr. Sandoval discussed briefly actions occurring since the last RAB meeting.
  - 1. Improved organization of Kelly AFB documents at the Library.
  - 2. TRS development of a summary groundwater contamination map.
  - 3. Modification of agenda and seating arrangement to improve RAB meeting format. .
  - 4. Posterboard session held before RAB meetings.
  - 5. Movement toward obtaining a Technical Assistance for Public Participation program grant.
- D. Minutes from Jan 28 RAB meeting were approved without change.
- E. Minutes from 26 Feb RAB meeting were approved without change.

## **Item II: Community Statements**

A. The Chair called for comments from members of the public who wished to address the RAB.

1. No persons offered comments.

## **Item III: Subcommittee Reports**

A. Technical Subcommittee (TRS) Reports. Before the presentations the General lauded the work being performed by the TRS.

1. Capt. Tom de Venoge, Kelly AFB, reported on the most recent Technical Review Subcommittee meeting. He presented an overview of the Summary Groundwater Contamination Map. He said he considers the map to be one of the TRS's successes. (See attached slides)
2. Mr. Sandoval said there are several upcoming key milestones that require RAB and public input. One such milestone is the Zone 4 Focused Feasibility Study, which is undergoing public comment now. He said the TRS has developed comments, which he would like the RAB to adopt and submit to the Air Force. (See attached memo.)
3. Comments:
  - Mr. Sam Murrah said subsidence is not necessarily caused by extracting water from the aquifer. It is usually caused by a change in vegetation. Mr. Sandoval suggested he write the comment out and submit it to the Air Force.
  - Mr. Armando Quintanilla said Kelly is currently pumping and treating 1 million gallons of water a day and dumping it into Leon Creek. He said that is a waste of money and the water should be put back into the aquifer.
  - Ms. Annalisa Peace said she would like the TRS to consider the possibility of offsetting discharge in connection with drought management at its next meeting.
  - Brig Gen. LeRoy Barnidge said the RAB should submit the comments to the Air Force as they are currently written. Any additional comments may also be submitted. Comments are due by 11 April 1998.
4. The next TRS meeting was set for April 21 at St. Mary's University.

B. Administrative Subcommittee Report

1. Ms. Annalisa Peace gave the report of the Administrative Subcommittee. The subcommittee requested that the RAB vote on how often to hold meetings—six times per year or four times per year. She moved for the RAB to vote on changing the frequency of meetings to six times per year.
2. Discussion
  - Mr. Larry Hoffmann asked if there was a specific reason for holding six meetings per year. Ms. Peace said with quarterly meetings, there always seemed to be too much on the agenda to cover. More frequent meetings would allow the RAB to cover more information.
  - Mr. Sam Sanchez, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, speaking against the motion, said the TRS meetings are very productive. Much of the technical work that is not necessary at RAB meetings is done in those meetings.
  - Mr. George Rice said RAB members don't get enough time to speak in quarterly meetings. He said he supports meeting six times per year.
  - Gen. Barnidge said the TRS is the workhorse of the RAB. He said quarterly RAB meetings cost less, and he believes the RAB meeting schedule can work very well with regular quarterly meetings and occasional out-of-cycle meetings for

special circumstances. Mr. Sandoval agreed. He said the TRS has been able tackle tough technical issues. He said the quarterly RAB meetings should be used to report on what has been done and what the subcommittees recommend. He recommended quarterly RAB meetings, monthly TRS meetings and out-of-cycle RAB meetings as required.

- Mr. Rice asked what would be the procedure for calling an out-of-cycle meeting. Gen. Barnidge suggested that requests be made at RAB meetings or by contacting either of the Co-Chairs.
- 3. Vote was taken on the previous motion for six RAB meetings. Motion failed 5-8.
- 4. A motion was made to schedule quarterly RAB meetings, with monthly TRS meetings and out-of-cycle meetings as required. Motion passed 10-3.
- 5. Next two meetings were set for July 15 and October 21.

#### C. National RAB Caucus Report

1. Mr. Quintanilla gave a report on the national meeting he attended in Phoenix in January 1998. Mr. Quintanilla explained that he did not attend the Defense Environmental Restoration Task Force Conference, but attended the National Caucus of RAB Members, held in Phoenix immediately prior to the DERTF Conference. The Caucus meeting provided guidance for RAB members throughout the country. He said his attendance at this meeting was financed by one of 25 scholarships given by the Caucus. He summarized the topics discussed during the two-day conference. See attached slides.
2. Discussion:
  - Mr. Rice asked if “dirty land transfers” were occurring at Kelly. Mr. Quintanilla said that it might be the case here. Alan Posnick, TNRCC, said he saw no evidence of such transfers occurring at Kelly, nor did he see any indication that they would occur at Kelly. He said that as long as a final cleanup system is in place and shown to be successful, it meets the requirements of the law. Mr. Rice asked if the requirement was that the area will be cleaned up to standards before it is transferred. Mr. Posnick said the standard need not be achieved; however, the state must be satisfied the cleanup system will achieve cleanup goals.
  - Mr. Juan Solis said it appears the standard has changed from the former requirement that the land must be clean before it can be transferred. He said people fear the Air Force will walk away from the problem without cleaning it up. Mr. Posnick said the rules have changed to facilitate faster land transfer. But he said that does not lessen the Air Force’s responsibility to clean up all the contamination it caused. Even if contamination is discovered after transfer, if it was caused by the Air Force, the Air Force is responsible for it. He said the Post Closure Care permit will ensure the Air force is responsible.
  - Mr. Rice said he was concerned that the Air Force will blame the new commercial tenants for any contamination found in the future. He said since the future industrial tenants will use the same chemicals found in the groundwater, it will be difficult to prove who is responsible.
  - Ms. Camille Hueni, EPA, said that under the law, contaminated soil must be cleaned up before the land can be transferred. For groundwater, land can be transferred when a cleanup system is in place and operating successfully.

A short break was taken.

#### **Item IV: Cleanup Schedule for FY98**

- A. Capt. de Venoge reviewed the cleanup schedule for FY 98. See attached slides.
1. Discussion:
    - Mr. Quintanilla asked when off-base cleanup will begin for Zone 3. Capt. de Venoge said a decision has not been made yet. He expected a system to be in place by 2001.
    - Mr. Sandoval asked if the RAB can get a list of upcoming documents. Capt. de Venoge said he would provide a list.

#### **Item V. New Off Base Monitoring Wells**

- A. Mr. Joe Ebert, Kelly AFB, gave a presentation on the locations of new off-base monitoring wells. He said the wells are necessary to define the eastern and southern extent of the SS-040/SS-051 plume. He said wells will be placed about 800-1,000 feet apart extending to 10,000 feet from the base boundary. The wells will extend east of Interstate 35. The wells will be installed starting in late April.
1. Discussion:
    - Mr. Rice asked if more wells will be installed in the Zone 3 area. Mr. Ebert said he did not know, but he will get him an answer.

#### **Item VI: Results-Health District Well Study**

- A. Mr. Sanchez gave a short briefing on the results of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's water survey. The District's staff sampled 62 residences, businesses, schools and day care centers in the area of the contamination and found no chemicals in the drinking water. They also tested 28 private wells. Only three were in use. None showed any contamination. Bexar Metropolitan Water District also sampled their distribution wells. They also showed no contamination. He said the District is still looking for additional wells and will sample those as they are found.
- B. Discussion
1. Mr. Rice asked for the analytical data. Mr. Sanchez said it is available at his office. Mr. Sandoval asked that Mr. Sanchez provide the data at the next TRS meeting.

#### **Item VII: 28 Jan 98 RAB Issues - Responses/Answers**

- A. Communicating with CEJA: Requester - Gen. Barnidge / Action - Mrs. Adames
1. Ms. Dominga Adames said she believes CEJA is satisfied with how the RAB is operating. No further action needed at this time.
- B. Disestablishments of RABs: Requester - Mr. Quintanilla/ Action - Gen. Barnidge
1. Gen. Barnidge said that no guidance for RAB disestablishment exists at this time and that DoD plans to gather public input before issuing any such guidance..
- C. City/County Forum Highlights: Action - Mr. Sandoval and Gen. Barnidge
1. Gen. Barnidge said the sessions were very successful with good coverage in news media. Another public forum is scheduled for June.
- D. Quintana Road Project Permit: Requester - Mr. Quintanilla/ Action - Gen. Barnidge
1. Mr. Quintanilla had asked if the work going on at Quintana Road with the drainage project requires a permit. He was told it does not. The work done does not require a

- permit under any law. Waste water and soils generated at the site will be treated and disposed of under Kelly's current permit.
2. Mr. Quintanilla asked if the Post Closure Care permit will cover off-base cleanup. He said he does not believe it does. Gen. Barnidge asked Mr. Posnick to give a full report on the permit's provisions at the next meeting. He also asked TNRCC to provide a written response regarding the permit.
- E. Quintana Road Project Soil Samples: Requester - Mr. Johnson/Action - Gen. Barnidge
1. Gen. Barnidge said soil samples from the Navarro Clay will be taken during the construction of the drainage project.
- F. List of Interim Remedial Actions in Place: Requester - Mr. Sandoval/Action - Gen. Barnidge
1. A list of current IRAs was provided in the member packets. (See attached.)
  2. Mr. Rice asked if any IRAs are located off base. Mr. Mike McGhee, Kelly AFB, said no IRAs are off base. They are on base because that's where it makes sense to do them. IRAs are not intended as a final remedy. They are intended to keep a problem from worsening while a final remedy is being selected and designed. It is simply easier for the base to construct on-base IRAs than to go off base to do it. He said this in no way means that off-base cleanup is being ignored.
  3. Mr. David Johnson said people are concerned that natural attenuation will be used to clean up the neighborhoods. He wants to see what technologies are being considered for cleaning up the off-base areas. Gen. Barnidge said this information does not exist because we have not yet reached that point in the process. That information will be made available to everyone in the Feasibility Studies. Gen. Barnidge said these issues, and others coming down the road, will be handled by the TRS. He suggested the TRS decide how to handle the documents as they come. He said a schedule will be provided to assist the TRS in planning.
- G. RAB Member Risk Assessment Training: Requester - Ms. Peace/Action - Gen. Barnidge
1. Gen. Barnidge said Risk Assessment training is available to RAB members. He said Brooks AFB has offered a Saturday in May (3-4 hours). It is free. Mr. Rice asked if RAB members can receive training on Risk-based cleanups.
  2. Mr. Sandoval said the rules may be changing. Mr. Johnson said it would be valuable to know the rules now so we can see how the proposed rules are different. Mr. Posnick said TNRCC is hosting a conference in Austin, at which a workshop will be held to discuss the changes in the rules. This will be held May 5 at the Austin Convention Center. He said he will try to get interested RAB members fee waivers to attend the workshop.

### **Item VIII: New Business**

- A. Special RAB Meeting.
1. Mr. Sandoval said he would like to hold a special RAB meeting to discuss how the RAB operates. He thinks the RAB needs to look at itself critically to decide if members are doing what they are supposed to be doing, if are they on track to achieving their goals, and what they need to change to get there. He proposed this meeting for May 11, at 6 p.m., at Bldg. 1680 on base. The special RAB meeting will be closed.

2. Discussion:

- Mr. Sanchez suggested an outside facilitator may be helpful at this meeting. The Co-chairs agreed and said they will find a no cost facilitator.
- Mr. Rice asked for information on how other RABs operate. Mr. Quintanilla said he would look into getting that information.

B. TAPP Application.

1. Mr. Sandoval said instruction on how to apply for and use the TAP program will be given at the next TRS. Gen. Barnidge said this is important. To his knowledge, the Kelly AFB TAPP is the first to be done in DOD. DOD wants to do the program well. Kelly will be used as a model for the TAPP program at other bases.

C. Mr. Rice had three items of new business.

1. He asked when he would again be allowed access to documents on base. Gen. Barnidge said he will let him know soon.
2. He reported that the well drilled at Mr. Quintanilla's residence produced contaminated water, despite prior Air Force claims that the water would not be contaminated. He said the Air Force's contractor stated that the contamination is not from Kelly. He said the statement sets a pattern that could be bad for the city. Because the subject of Mr. Rice's comment directly involves ongoing litigation against the Air Force, the base had no comment on Mr. Rice's statement.
3. He asserted that contamination from Kelly has reached the Edwards Aquifer and Kelly knew about it. He said the Air Force found contamination in a well in 1988. The well has since been plugged, but Kelly has constantly stated that contamination cannot enter the Edwards Aquifer. He said he now knows it has, and that "Kelly knew it."

**Item IX: Community Comments**

- A. Rev. Gene Shepherd, AARP Chapter President, said seniors are concerned about the how far the contamination goes to the south. He asked that a survey of the areas south of the base be done to see what's there.
- B. Ms. Tanya Huerta asked where the water from the shallow aquifer naturally discharges. She also commented that she believed the vote taken in the TRS violated the Texas Open Meetings Act. In response to Ms. Huerta's statement, Ms. Kelly said that the RAB is not subject to the Open Meetings Act, but the Air Force generally tries to comply with the policy and intent of the law, whenever possible and practical. Mr. Quintanilla said the secret meetings cause people not to trust the RAB. Gen. Barnidge said the meetings are not secret, but are not advertised because of short notice. Minutes are available for anyone who wishes to read them.

**Item X: Next RAB Meeting**

- A. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 15, 1998, at 6 p.m. at Dwight Middle School. ( Pending School Approval)
- B. Agenda/ Action Items
  1. Agenda Items:
    - Ms. Peace asked that the RAB invite Dr. Marvin Legator to give a presentation to the RAB regarding the community health study at a future meeting. Mr. Sandoval said he would contact Dr. Legator and invite him.
    - Ms. Hueni suggested presentations on remediation plans be given to the TRS at the 30 percent design stage.

- Mr. Quintanilla said Mr. Sam Goodhope of the Office of the Attorney General of Texas would be willing to come make a presentation to the RAB about how other RABs work.
  - Mr. Sanchez said the meetings are still too long. The agenda needs to be streamlined. He said people won't come because the meetings are too long.
2. Action Items/ Action Officer
- Mr. Quintanilla asked for a copy of the Zone 3 Record of Decision. Mr. Quintanilla/ Air Force
  - Mr. Rice asked if the Air Force intends to define the contamination south of Mr. Quintanilla's house. Mr. Rice/ Air Force
  - Further delineation of Zone 3 off base - progress report. RAB/ Air Force
  - Holding TRS meetings on the south side - City's Fire Training Facility. Mr. Quintanilla/ Mr. Sandoval
  - Better advertising of TRS meetings. RAB/ Gen. Barnidge
  - When will the Air Force have a remedial action in the Quintana Road neighborhood and other off base areas (zone 3)? Mr. Rice/ Gen. Barnidge
  - List of upcoming anticipated documents and dates. RAB/Air Force
  - San Antonio Metropolitan Health District sampling data. Mr. Rice & TRS/ Mr. Sanchez
  - Any additional information on permit for the Quintana Road project. Mr. Quintanilla/ Mr. Posnick
  - Written statement on no requirement for a permit and does the plume extent change or effect the R.O.D. Gen. Barnidge/ Mr. Posnick, TNRCC
  - When did off base sampling begin? Ms. Peace/ Air Force
  - Set up Risk Assessment Training before next Risk Assessment. RAB/ TRS & Air Force
  - TNRCC Risk Reduction training fee waivers for RAB delegates. RAB/ Mr. Posnick,
  - Getting a facilitator for upcoming special meeting. RAB/ Gen. Barnidge, Mr. Posnick, Ms. Hueni
  - Confirm TAPP for TRS meeting. RAB/ Air Force

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

## **Motions/Resolutions**

### **A. Motions**

1. Motion was made to approve the Jan. 28, 1998 minutes.
  - Approved by a show of hands.
2. Motion was made to approve the Feb. 26, 1998 RAB minutes.
  - Approved by a show of hands.
3. Motion to hold 6 RAB meetings a year.
  - Failed 5-8
4. Motion to hold RAB meetings quarterly.
  - Approved 10-3
5. Motion was made to set July 15 and Oct 21 as the next two quarterly meetings.
  - Not voted on; withdrawn.
6. Motion that RAB adopt and submit attached TRS comments as the RAB's advice and counsel on the Zone 4 FFS - to DOD - - Kelly AFB

- Passed unanimously

Attachments (Provided at the meeting to all RAB members.)

1. Fact Sheet, IRP Zone 4 Interim Remedial Action for Contaminated Groundwater
2. TRS Comments on Zone 4 FFS
3. National Caucus of RAB Community Members- 25-26 Jan 98
4. List of Current IRP Sites with Interim Remedial Actions in Place